

From: Rick Lazansky
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'd like to voice my objection to the proposed settlement for Microsoft.

I've been involved in the development of software for 25 years, starting with the software development for operating systems and software tools with Intel Corporation. Over this period, it has become virtually impossible to develop independent software. Most alarmingly the nature of the difficulty has grown exponentially over the past decade.

Competitive software requires modular, independent software application interfaces, open standards, and the free exchange of ideas, techniques, and algorithms. The availability of this information has decreased abruptly in each area in which Microsoft has launch an initiative. Even where Microsoft has participated in an open standard, subsequent events have either a) revealed that their real resources were directed to a proprietary standard, b) that their actual participation in the standard development served to delay the standard in practice, c) they hid or blocked progress towards resolving critical areas or d) that they later sought to 'make proprietary' later versions of the standard.

Computer users deserve a choice of solutions, whether general software for the consumer, or specific tools for business, engineers, or even software development. Microsoft has increasingly kept this from occurring. The subtlety by which it is possible to preclude effective outside development frightens me. It has become less obvious to even long term practioners perhaps, but using internet interfaces, Java, and even the C programming language has become nearly impossible without incurring delay as well as proprietary platform dependence.

Regards,
Rick Lazansky

Rick Lazansky
VP Product Development
408 987 0603 x314
<http://www.xpedion.com>
<mailto:rick@xpedion.com>